



PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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For Information Contact Public Affairs
Mike Johns (602) 514-7566

NAVAJO WOMAN INDICTED FOR FIRST DEGREE MURDER OF HER THREE CHILDREN

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, announced today that a federal grand jury at Phoenix, Arizona, returned a six count indictment against Elvira Charley, 31 years old, of Klagetoh, Arizona.

The indictment alleges that the defendant shot three of her six children, ages 11, 10 and 9 with a .22 caliber rifle on January 1, 2002. The defendant is detained.

The federal indictment charges Elvira Charley with violating Title 18 of the United States Code, Sections 1153, 1111 and 924(c) and (j).

A conviction for First Degree Murder carries a maximum penalty of life in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. A conviction for Possession or Use of a Firearm in a Crime of Violence carries a maximum penalty of life in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Navajo Criminal Investigations Unit.

The prosecution is being handled by Sharon K. Smith, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

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